

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CLASS LOADER CONSTRAINT CHECKING****ABSTRACT**

5           An object-oriented computer system includes two or  
more class loaders for loading program class files into the  
system. A constraint checking mechanism is provided so that  
where a first class file loaded by a first class loader  
makes a symbolic reference to a second class file loaded by  
a second class loader, with said symbolic reference  
including a descriptor of a third class file, the  
constraint enforces that the first and second class files  
agree on the identity of the third class file. The  
constraint checking mechanism stores a list of constraints  
as a set of asymmetric relationships between class loaders.  
Each stored constraint, for a class loader which loaded a  
class file that contains a symbolic reference to another  
class file, includes a first parameter denoting the class  
loader which loaded the class file to which the symbolic  
references is made; and a second parameter denoting a class  
file which is identified by a descriptor in said symbolic  
reference.